

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action of October 3, 2003. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 14, 18, 26, 29, 32 and 34 have been amended, and claims 3, 17 and 28 have been cancelled.

RESPONSE TO 35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTION

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-7, 11-14, 16-21, 25-26, 28, 29, 32, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ibaraki (U.S. Patent No. 5,546,461) in view of Chapman (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,402), Faria (UK Patent Application GB 2316278A), Schneier (Applied Cryptography) and .

Rejection of the claims is traversed. None of the references alone or in combination provides "scrambling the blocks of the digital video signal responsive to a key of which a remote computer number and a video position number are components, the video position number representing positional information including the block to be scrambled, the scrambling includes XOR operations between the blocks of the digital video signal to be scrambled and other operands, with each XOR operation being between one of the blocks to be scrambled and one of the other operands," as claimed in the claims.

Neither Faria nor any of the other references teach or disclose the digital video to be scrambled taken a "block" at a time and then bit-XOR'ed with the "combined key." In particular, the present invention generates a "combined key" from an initial key and processor number. Each of the initial key and processor number first undergoes a hash (hash 1 and hash 2 respectively). The hashed values are then combined to form an N bit "combined key." The digital video to be scrambled is then taken a "block" at a time and then bit-XOR'ed with the "combined key." The result then undergoes another round of XOR'ing. This time, the bits are organized into bytes and each byte is then XOR'ed with the least significant byte of the relative position of that byte in the video. The result then forms the scrambled video. This additional XOR'ing serves to further scramble the data bit further. In compression techniques such as MPEG in which there can be a sequence of 0's, without this additional scrambling stage, the combined key can be exposed. Furthermore, instead of using the least significant byte of the

file position, a hashed version of the byte can be used. Hashing here will then be dependent on the processor number.

There is additionally no motivation to combine these references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

No additional fees are required for claims.

The required fee for a three month extension of time is enclosed. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 252-7605. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

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By 
Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 5, 2004.


Margaux Rodriguez April 5, 2004